

## PRACTICE OF LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY TAKING AND DOCUMENTING MEASUREMENTS

The Maryland Practice Act (13-101) defines "taking and documenting measurements" as within the "practice of limited physical therapy" allowed by the physical therapist assistant. The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners voted on April 21, 2009 to clarify that manual muscle testing and assigning a numerical or letter grade is included in "taking and documenting measurements". This Board action validates that a manual muscle test "grade" is defined in objective and measurable terms. Therefore, when the PTA performs a manual muscle test (MMT) as an objective measure of patient status they may document the MMT grade and record their findings in the objective section of the physical therapy medical record. The Board emphasizes the following key points:

1. Only the physical therapist can interpret the results of a manual muscle test.
2. Physical therapist assistants may not perform manual muscle tests as part of a physical therapy evaluation.
3. The physical therapist assistant should only perform and document the results of a manual muscle test to measure the patient's response to treatment.
4. The supervising physical therapist and physical therapist assistant should use consistent MMT grading systems and objective measures when assigning the grade.